



Montana SMART Schools SMART Energy Challenge Ideas

Saving Money and Resources Today in Montana's Schools

Are you interested in making your school more energy efficient and saving on utility bills? It really doesn't take much to increase a school's energy efficiency and promote conservation, and these changes ultimately can save schools money. Here are some ideas to promote energy efficiency and conservation via simple operational or behavioral changes that will help with SMART Energy Challenge Projects:

✓	Remove extra bulbs from lit work areas
✓	Turn on the lights when students begin arriving, as opposed to a half hour before
✓	Turn off all non-essential or decorative lighting, including florescent lighting in vending machines
✓	Replace lighting with energy efficiency bulbs, or install occupancy sensors
✓	Have teachers pick an "energy monitor" or form a student energy patrol that helps remind students and occupants to be smart about energy consumption
✓	Create "save energy" signs near appliances
✓	Support lighting retrofits at you school
✓	Have your school join a benchmarking program, such as EnergyStar Portfolio
✓	Clean furnaces regularly, and turn water heaters down when possible
✓	Install programmable thermostats
✓	Find ways to increase airflow around vents, close doors and window, stop air leaks
✓	Use surge protectors
✓	Require double-sided printing for paper
✓	Purchase Energy Star equipment



✓	Turn down thermostats on refrigerators
✓	Install controllers for beverage vending machines
✓	Turn off computer equipment when done and in the evenings when not in use
✓	Install software to automatically shut off computers when not in use
✓	Design new schools to exceed current state energy codes
✓	Design and build new rooms or areas as high performance areas
✓	Appoint an administrative energy manager that keeps track of your school's energy consumption and handles bills and energy-related issues for you school
✓	Encourage facilities staff to attend a building operator certification program, or another energy efficiency conference or webinar (find out more on SMART Schools website)
✓	Conduct building commissioning for your facilities
✓	Conduct an audit of your school to identify areas for energy savings. Involve the entire school and publicize energy costs and savings
✓	Retro-commission existing buildings
✓	Replace air handling units and incorporate economizers as a cooling method
✓	Increase roof insulation during next scheduled roofing replacement
✓	Replace appliances with Energy Star equipment
✓	Work toward becoming LEED certified
✓	Consider implementing a Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Biomass Energy program (find out more on SMART Schools website)
✓	Reach out to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for technical assistance or additional ideas